



APS unveils solar plant's 2nd phase

System to supply 172 kilowatts to grid

By Jim Gintonio
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The second phase of a solar power plant at Glendale Municipal Airport was unveiled Wednesday. It's one more step in an Arizona Public Service Co. plan to get the Valley to rely less on fossil fuel. When completed in April or May, it will supply 172 kilowatts of solar energy into the electric grid.

A partnership between Glendale and APS will provide technology that will track the sun's movement and will use special lenses to magnify the sun's rays 250 times on each solar cell at the plant.

Phase one of the solar power plant feeds 72 kilowatts into the grid, which helps to provide some solar power to all APS customers.

The solar project requires no payment on the part of APS customers, but officials are seeking partners to pay a \$2.43 monthly fee as a way to contribute to a cleaner environment.

"This all helps brings down prices so we can use solar power and have it more widespread," said Ed Fox, the vice president for the environment for APS. "We need to expand the program and still protect the environment."

By the end of the year, APS will have 1 megawatt of solar electricity installed. Currently, 376 kilowatts of solar power are on line at its four facilities. The other plants are in Tempe, Scottsdale and Flagstaff.

Peter Johnston, the manager of technology development for APS, said that the utility has been studying solar power for 25 years but that it just began putting it to practical use five years ago. APS is spending \$6 million a year to develop the technology.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs said Glendale is excited to be in a position where it can do something innovative and creative.

The city is providing the land at the airport on a low-cost lease.

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